

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1210**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Nakano**

February 21, 2003

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An act to amend Section 8201 of, and to add Section 8201.2 to, the Government Code, relating to notaries public.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1210, as introduced, Nakano. Notaries public: qualifications.

Existing law establishes the qualifications for notaries public and requires, among other things, that the person have satisfactorily completed a written examination prescribed by the Secretary of State to determine the fitness of the person to exercise the functions of the office of notary public.

This bill would also require any person, in order to qualify as a notary public, to have satisfactorily completed a course of study approved by the Secretary of State concerning the functions and duties of a notary public.

The bill would require the Secretary of State to review any course of study proposed pursuant to the bill, to approve any course of study that includes all material that a person is expected to know to satisfactorily complete the written examination, and to compile a list of all persons offering approved courses.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 8201 of the Government Code is amended to read:

8201. Every person appointed as notary public shall *meet all of the following requirements*:

(a) Be at the time of appointment a legal resident of this state, except as otherwise provided in Section 8203.1.

(b) Be not less than 18 years of age.

(c) *Have satisfactorily completed a course of study approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 8201.2 concerning the functions and duties of a notary public.*

(d) Have satisfactorily completed a written examination prescribed by the Secretary of State to determine the fitness of the person to exercise the functions *and duties* of the office of notary public. All questions shall be based on the law of this state as set forth in the booklet of the laws of California relating to notaries public distributed by the Secretary of State.

SEC. 2. Section 8201.2 is added to the Government Code, to read:

8201.2. (a) The Secretary of State shall review the course of study proposed by any person to be offered pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 8201. If the course of study includes all material that a person is expected to know to satisfactorily complete the written examination required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 8201, the Secretary of State shall approve the course of study.

(b) The Secretary of State shall compile a list of all persons offering an approved course of study pursuant to subdivision (a) and shall provide the list with every booklet of the laws of California relating to notaries public distributed by the Secretary of State.